

PNDF-01194
Amendment dated 01/23/2004

09/989,450

00760070aa
Reply to office action mailed 10/23/2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-22 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each.

In the specification, syntax and translation errors have been corrected. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,535,590 to Tidwell. Tidwell reference discloses a telephony system using a television display, in which the operability of a hand-held remote control or a keyboard is improved by displaying functions of a plurality of devices on the display. The remote control device is shown with numerous functions being assigned to different keys. The television is used as a display means for indicating various options for user selection, including display of a keypad for input of, e.g. a telephone number. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tidwell of setting and enrolling an operating procedure by a user, which is the field of the present invention. In Tidwell, when conducting a complicated operation, it is necessary to input a key representing a function multiple times.

The invention addresses the prior art problem that users who frequently use an operational procedure involving a sequence of functions provided on a device are not able to give a name to that sequence and assign the sequence to a softkey. Tidwell does not disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention. The first step in the solution implemented by the present invention is to store and display each function in sequence, and then to permit selection and non-volatile storage of a selection from the displayed combination of functions. This is set forth in independent claim 1. While

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Tidwell discloses display of various functions on the television, there is no suggestion of "selecting" functions in the sense of storing them as an operational procedure. Nor does the prior art (e.g. the Cory reference) provide, as an element or component of a device, display for the user of the component functions of an operational procedure.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify these novel aspects of the invention, and is now believed to be in allowable form. The remaining claims, being dependent from an allowable claim, are therefore also believed to be allowable.

As to the additional limitations provided in the dependent claims, it should be noted that Tidwell does not provide them. For example, while Tidwell discloses the naming of functions (such as Home 66 or Search 68 in Fig. 3), these names are provided by the manufacturer of the device and not by the user. Similarly, the assignment of a functionality to a softkey, if the buttons shown in Fig. 3 of Tidwell may be regarded as softkeys, is not done by the user or, with respect to other prior art, with the convenience to the user provided by the display and selection aspect of claim 1. As for the email application (claims 13 through 17) and the internet linkage (claims 18 through 22), the functionality of these applications is similarly not disclosed in Tidwell or the prior art to be subject to the convenient control of the user.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-22 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.



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If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

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